



Thuan's story



Above: Vietnam, located on the eastern coast of the Indochina Peninsula, has experienced significant economic growth, causing a widening gap between rich and poor. Far right: Thuan has learned to read and write through the support of CRS' inclusion for Vietnamese with Disabilities program.

Map credit: OCHA. Top Photo by Kim Pozniak/CRS. Bottom Photos by Laura Sheshon/CRS.

Quat Trinh and her daughter, **Thuan**, live in Vietnam. Thuan has cerebral palsy and can't walk or move easily. When Thuan was young, her mother was frustrated and cried often. Quat wanted her daughter to learn, but Thuan wasn't strong enough to go to school. And schools in Vietnam often lack resources to serve students with disabilities.

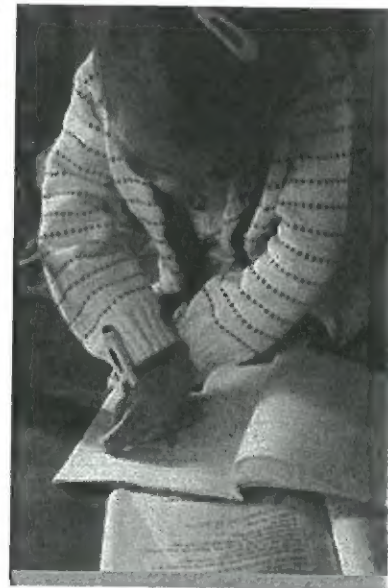
Catholic Relief Services invited Quat to a meeting for parents who have children with disabilities. Quat learned how to exercise Thuan's muscles and how to help her eat on her own. She wrote the alphabet on the wall near Thuan's bed so she could learn it. Quat also received help from a tutor who worked closely with Thuan. In the beginning, Thuan could not even hold a pen. With time, she was able to write many things, including math problems and even poems! Thuan's tutor was amazed at how much she accomplished.

Still, Quat and Thuan faced daily challenges because they didn't have much support. Quat helped organize a local parents association where parents

shared advice about how to care for children with disabilities, celebrate their children's accomplishments and comfort each other through difficult times. Quat is proud of her daughter—who she brags is very smart—and is grateful for all the progress Thuan has made.

LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

Every person is made in the image of God. This means that every life is sacred and all people are worthy of respect, no matter who they are or where they live. We are called to care for all human life.





A CRS program that provides in-home tutoring for children with disabilities has helped Thuan Trinh learn to read and write.

Photo by Laura Sheahan/CRS

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. We are motivated by the example of Jesus Christ to assist poor and suffering people in more than 100 countries on the basis of need, without regard to race, religion or nationality. Founded in 1943, CRS reaches 85 million of the world's poorest people each year with innovative solutions to poverty, hunger, drought, disease and emergencies. CRS works in close partnership with the Catholic Church around the world, and with local,

national and international organizations that share our commitment to finding ways to meet immediate needs while empowering communities for the long term.

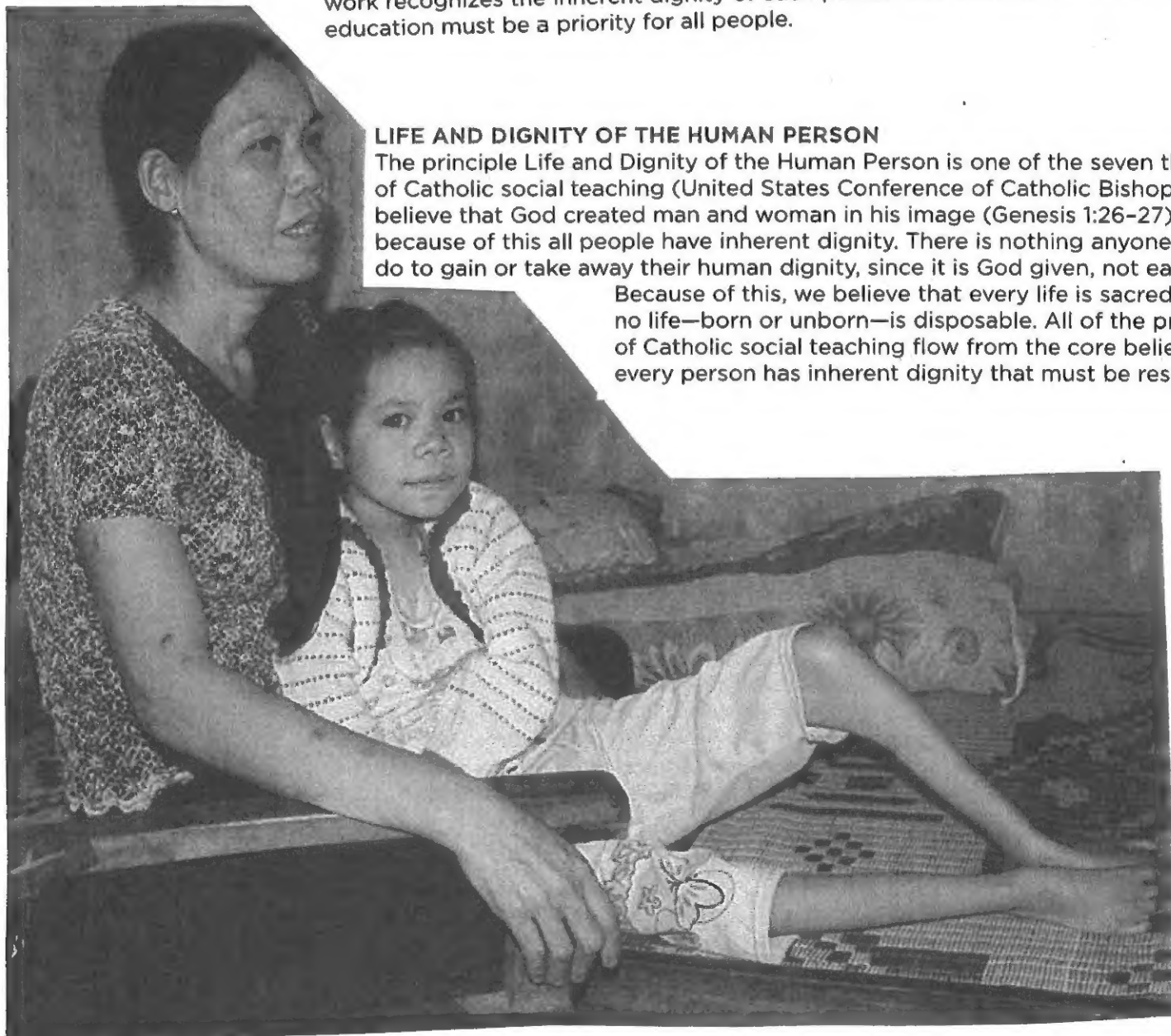
LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON AND CRS

CRS' programming overseas upholds the Catholic social teaching principle Life and Dignity of the Human Person. In Vietnam, disabilities can carry stigma and children with disabilities are often ostracized—in some cases, by their own families. Schools often lack the resources to serve students with disabilities. We support parents and teachers to ensure children with disabilities achieve their potential. Our work recognizes the inherent dignity of each person and demonstrates that quality education must be a priority for all people.

LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

The principle Life and Dignity of the Human Person is one of the seven themes of Catholic social teaching (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops). We believe that God created man and woman in his image (Genesis 1:26-27) and because of this all people have inherent dignity. There is nothing anyone can do to gain or take away their human dignity, since it is God given, not earned.

Because of this, we believe that every life is sacred and that no life—born or unborn—is disposable. All of the principles of Catholic social teaching flow from the core belief that every person has inherent dignity that must be respected.



Name: _____

Thuan's Story

Catholic Social Teaching

Life & Dignity of the Human Person

1. Describe the challenges which Quat Trinh and her daughter Thuan face.
2. Explain how the help that Quat received from CRS impacted Thuan's life.
3. How did Quat help others with similar challenges after she had been helped?
4. What do the words "stigma" and "ostracized" mean?
5. Do you think this "stigma" is an issue in our country also, for people with physical or intellectual challenges?

7. What is Catholic Relief Services and what does it do and where does it work?

8. Upon what Catholic Social Teaching Principle is CRS based?

9. Give a detailed description of what the article says about the meaning of Life and Dignity of the Human Person”.